

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 EUR-12 HA-05 IO-14
/051 W

-----081281 071822Z /42

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7160

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 3720

FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, PASS IPS

STATE FOR AF/E AND AF/S

E.O.11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

SUMMARY: EDITORIAL COMMENT IN ZAMBIAN PRESS FOCUSES ON PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S TUESDAY NEWS CONFERENCE AND IN-DEPTH ANALYSES OF HIS REMARKS. EDITORIALS GENERALLY AGREE WITH DR. KAUNDA'S DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM FURTHER DEBATE ON ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE PROPOSALS. BOTH AMPLIFY ON THE PRESIDENT'S ATTACK ON BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY DAVID OWEN, WITH THE MAIL ACCUSING HIM OF BEING A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO A SOLUTION IN RHODESIA.

DETAILS OF THE DITORIALS IN THE TWO ZAMBIAN DAILIES FOLLOW:

THE STATE-OWNED ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL WRITES THAT WHEN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WERE MADE PUBLIC," THEIR SERIOUS FLAW LAY IN THE FACT THAT THEY TOOK TOO MANY THINGS FOR GRANTED."

AMONG THE THINGS THE MAIL CLAIMS WERE TAKEN FOR GRANTED IN THE PROPOSALS WERE THE FACT THAT SMITH WOULD WILLINGLY STEP DOWN
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TO MAKE POSSIBLE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE;
THE FACT THAT BLACKS AND WHITES COULD SUDDENLY "WAKE UP TO LOVE EACH OTHER "DESPITE THE YEARS OF HATRED BEHIND THEM; AND THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ALLIANCE OF JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE WOULD "THROUGH SOME MIRACLE" STOP FIGHTING THE SMITH GOVERNMENT AND GO STRAIGHT INTO A CEASEFIRE.

IN THE VIEW OF THE MAIL, THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WERE
DESIGNED AS "SOME KIND OF FORMULA WHICH WOULD KEEP THOSE THEY
CONSIDERED TO BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF COMMUNISTS OUT OF
GOVERNMENT OF ANY FUTURE ZIMBABWE."

"THE PROPOSALS SOUGHT TO PUT INTO POWER STOOGES WHO COULD BE
TRUSTED BY THE WEST AND THE WHITES INSIDE RHODESIA EVEN AT THE
EXPENSE OF GOOD AND STABLE GOVERNMENT," THE MAIL EDITORIAL CHARGES.

THE MAIL TERMS FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AS THE "OTHER PROBLEM"
AND CHARGES THAT HE "OPENLY WORSHIPPED AND ADMIRED" RHODESIAN
PREMIER IAN SMITH.

THE MAIL CONTENTS "THAT ZAMBIA'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE RHODESIAN
PROBLEM HAS BEEN DR. OWEN'S BIGGEST OBSTACLE".
AND THAT "BRITAIN, THROUGH DR. OWEN, HAS NOT HIDDEN HER ANNOYANCE
WITH ZAMBIA OVER RHODESIA."

WITH ZAMBIA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM ANY FURTHER DEBATE OF THE PROPOSALS,
THE PAPER SARCASTICALLY NOTES, "DR. OWEN WILL HAVE THE BLESSINGS
OF ALL ZAMBIANS FOR A QUICK SETTLEMENT "WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE
NEITHER COMMUNISTS NOR EXTREMISTS."

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 EUR-12 HA-05 IO-14
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 LUSAKA 3720

FOR IOP/M

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IT SAYS HE CAN NOW "GO AHEAD TO GIVE THE TALKS SMITH STARTED
LAST WEEK ALL THE BLESSINGS THEY DESERVE FROM THE BRITISH AND

DR. OWEN."

BUT THE PAPER WARNS: "THERE WILL BE NO PEACE IN RHODESIA IF DR. OWEN DOES NOT COME UP WITH A FORMULA THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, WHO SO FAR, HAVE PROVED THE UANLY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF RHODESIA."

THE EDITORIAL SAYS SOUTHERN AFRICA IS CERTAIN TO BE PLUNGED INTO A HOLOCAUST WHICH COULD WELL END UP IN THE LOSS OF HUNDREDS OF BRITISH LIVES IF THE BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY "IGNORES, AS HE DOES NOW, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT."

CONCLUDES THE MAIL EDITORIAL: "RHODESIA WILL BE FINALLY LOST TO THE WEST IF DR. OWEN CONTINUES TO RIDE IT ROUGH SHOD OVER A PROBLEM WHICH HE DOES NOT UN(ER)STAND AND ONE WHICH HE HAS NOT TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO UNDERSTAND."

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THE PARTY NEWSPAPER, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA ECHOES THE MAIL SENTIMENTS BY SAYING THAT ELECTIONS IN RHODESIA WHICH IGNORE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE SOLDIERS IN THE FIELD "ARE A BLUEPRINT FOR FRATRICIDAL WAR AND CHAOS."

THE TIMES EDITORIAL SAYS THAT "AS THEY STAND NOW, THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS ARE NOT A MEANS OF ENSURING AN ORDERLY TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA."

THE PAPER CONTENDS THAT "IF THEY WERE AND IF MR. SMITH THOUGHT SO HE WOULD HAVE SURRENDERED LONG AGO." THE TIMES CHARGES THAT MR. SMITH IS MERELY PLAYING FOR TIME.

"HE IS USING THE CLASSICAL METHOD OF DIVIDING HIS ENEMIES AND AT THE SAME TIME STRENGTHENING HIS OWN ARMY, READY FOR A SHOWDOWN," THE PAPER SAYS.

THE TIMES SAYS: "WE EMPHASIZE AGAIN. SMITH MUST GO. HIS ARMY MUST BE DISMANTLED. THE SOLDIERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MUST TAKE OVER AS THE MILITARY ARMY OF A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY."

UNLESS THIS IS DONE "RHODESIA WILL GO UP IN FLAMES," WARNS THE PAPER. THE TIMES CONCLUDES:

"ZAMBIA HAS GIVEN A TIMELY BUT GRAVE WARNING. NOW WE ARE PULLING OUT FROM THE DEBATE FOR THERE IS NO POINT IN CONTINUING."

"IF ANYONE THINKS THAT ZAMBIA HAS TAKEN UP AN 'EXTREMIST' ATTITUDE ON THIS ISSUE THEN WE SAY 'YES, WE HAVE'. SOFT WORDS WILL NOT WIN THE BATTLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ZAMBIA IS COMMITTED TO WINNING THAT BATTLE." ITEM USIS LUSAKA.

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